



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Executive Director Report

Board Meeting, September 24, 2008

1) Regional Partnership Council Update

Regional Partnership Council Appointments: A total of 316 Regional Council members have been appointed. There are a total of 25 vacancies. One individual will be recommended for appointment by the FTF Board at the September 2008 meeting.

Regional Needs and Assets: All draft Regional Needs and Assets reports were received as of September 15th except for Coconino and Pascua Yaqui. The Coconino report is being revised to present data based on a “hub concept” requested by the Regional Council. The Coconino region is very large and diverse and data was requested to be provided not only for the County as a whole but by the communities and Tribes that are part of the region. We received a letter from the Chair of the Pascua Yaqui Regional Partnership Council explaining the Research Protection Ordinance passed by the Tribe and requesting an extension for their regional needs and assets report to November, 2008.

Regional Funding Plans: The September monthly training for coordinators was focused on budgeting, the funding plan template, and moving from a funding plan to development of a scope of work for the RFGA process. The funding plan template includes the three year strategic direction of the Regional Council, a description of the strategies to implement (including target population, proposed service numbers and performance measures) and the amount of the regional allocation distributed to that strategy. A summary of the expenditure plan for the FY 2010 regional allocation for all strategies is provided in the template along with the initial thinking of the Regional Council for sustaining services over a three year period and what a three year budget would look like.

Regional Councils are prioritizing their goals and are starting on strategy development. The finance division, working with the regional staff, is preparing for community outreach meetings to take place in November and December on the RFGA process. Regional Councils continue to move forward positively with the planning process.

Regional Partnership Councils leadership and governance: We will be holding a meeting on October 2, 2008 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with the Regional Partnership Council Chairs and Vice Chairs at the Shadow Rock United Church of Christ. This will provide an opportunity for Chairs and Vice Chairs to come together and share their experiences thus far, have an open discussion with FTF Leadership, to hear their perspective on how Councils are moving forward locally and as part of the overall state system, and the challenges Councils are facing as they work to become a cohesive team.

A group of Executive directors from the Smart Start Partnerships will meet with the Regional Coordinators On December 4, 2008 to share their experiences and offer guidance to the Regional Coordinators. The topics to be discussed include community input and involvement, building capacity (infrastructure for services) in the regions, maintaining momentum of staff and Regional Council members, and reflections on leadership and personal growth (experiences that have helped shape Regional Coordinators into their role as executives).

2) External Evaluation - Status Report

Meetings to discuss data collection or data sharing were convened with DES, the Piper Foundation, AZEIP, Raising Special Kids, ADE, DHS-vital statistics, and TEACH. In all cases (with the exception of the Piper Foundation and Raising Special Kids) FTF is working towards a formal data sharing agreement between agencies.

The FTF External Evaluation proposal was received from the university consortium on September 10th. A review team (including out of state experts has been convened to review the proposal and to make recommendations for further negotiation or action. A summary of the proposal will be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

Partner Survey

The partner survey was released via Zoomerang on 9/8/08. One reminder was sent on September 11th and second will be sent shortly. The survey will close on the 29th of this month. Analysis will be prepared for the use of FTF staff for presentation to the Board at the December meeting.

Family and Community Survey

As of the end of August, 2570 of the 5200 phone interviews have been completed. The Family and Community data collection will be completed by the end of September. Analysis will be prepared by FTF staff and presented to the Board by the January meeting.

3) FTF Financial Update

Luxury Tax revenues for August FY09 stayed consistent, totaling \$13,259,701. This brings the year-to-date luxury tax revenue total to \$26,332,310. The monthly average tobacco tax revenue is \$13,166,155 so far this fiscal year, down from an average of \$13,733,760 last year. FTF interest earnings for July received from investments totaled \$502,912.

We continue to expend under budget. August expenses totaled \$1,040,093 compared to a budget of \$ 1,377,008, or \$336,915 below the budget for the month. Year-to-date we have expended under our budget \$481,921.

Monies (including investment earnings) were distributed to the administrative account and program accounts. The Program Accounts show more than \$17 million for statewide funding and \$160.1 million for regional funding as of August 31st. The administrative account shows \$83.1 million net (after expenditures). In total, the net ending balance for First Things First was \$261 million as of August 31st.

4) Other updates

The auditors from Henry and Horne finished their work on Friday and we have received a clean audit for FY 2008, no findings! Accounting staff are proud of this accomplishment.